News Release
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

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McGuinty Government Helps Reopen Thunder Bay Mill - #950089

Province Invests In Business Plan For Redevelopment Of Local Mill

THUNDER BAY – The Ontario government is supporting the reopening of the Cascades paper mill in Thunder Bay through an investment in the development of its detailed business plan. Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP Bill Mauro and Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle made the announcement today on behalf of Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci.

"I am very pleased that our government has supported the effort of the local investment group from the very beginning," said Mauro. "The significant funding provided up front from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund has led directly to where we find ourselves today, this announcement of the reopening of the former Cascades Mill."

"The McGuinty government has shown its support for the forestry sector in many ways including direct investments into private sector projects that are helping create hundreds of new jobs in our northern communities," said Gravelle. "The feasibility study and business planning stages which we funded in this case were critical in shaping a viable plan and strategy for successfully re-opening this mill."

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) recently provided $96,250 to help the City of Thunder Bay develop a comprehensive business plan Thunder Bay Fine Papers used to strike the necessary partnerships to re-open the mill. The plan addressed and helped clarify a number of engineering, environmental assessment, legal, accounting and labour requirement issues.

"Our government recognizes that the forest industry and value-added industrial operations like paper mills continue to be among the North's most important employers," said Bartolucci, who is also chair of the NOHFC. "We are committed to ensuring the future prosperity of Northern Ontario by investing in the establishment and growth of job- and wealth creating enterprises across Northern Ontario."

Other McGuinty government initiatives in support of northern prosperity include:

- Investing over $8.5 million to date, from the NOHFC, to provide internships and work placements to help some 470 young northerners launch their careers in the North
- Contributing $2.2 million to the establishment of a new cancer and cardiac research centre in Thunder Bay

- Improving access to health care professionals, including opening the first Northern Ontario School of Medicine with a campus in Thunder Bay and funding more than 3,000 new nursing positions across Ontario.

These projects are part of the government's Northern Prosperity Plan for building stronger northern communities. The Northern Prosperity Plan has four pillars: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

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Contacts:
Laura Blondeau
Minister's Office – Sudbury
(705) 564-7454

Michel Lavoie
MNDM – Sudbury
(705) 564-7125
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